

Message Text

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TO SECRETARY FROM SCALI

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNGA

SUBJ: UNGA PRESIDENT BENITES COMMENTS ON US RELATIONS
WITH LATIN AMERICA

1. UNGA PRESIDENT BENITES MADE THOUGHTFUL COMMENTS ABOUT US RELATIONSHIPS WITH LATIN AMERICA IN LENGTHY RESPONSE TO TOAST AT LUNCHEON TENDERED TO HIM BY BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CENTER FOR INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONS SEPT. 27 AND ATTENDED BY AMB. BENNETT AND MYSELF. AUDIENCE INCLUDED 5 LA FONMINS, OVER 15 LA AMBASSADORS AND SUCH PILLARS OF THE NEW YORK BUSINESS COMMUNITY AS EXXON VICE PRES. COLLADO.

2. WITH DIGNITY AND COMPOSURE BENITES LOOKED AT THE HISTORICAL RECORD OF THE RELATIONSHIP AND FOUND NOT ONLY SUFFERING AND INSENSITIVITY BUT ALSO GREAT MOMENTS OF COMPREHENSION AND CREATIVITY SUCH AS GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY AND LATER ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS. HE PRAISED BOTH POLICIES AS HAVING BEEN MOTIVATED BY GOOD WILL AND FRIENDLY INTENTIONS ON PART OF US BUT COMMENTED THAT HEMISPHERE HAD NOW MOVED IN TO NEW SITUATIONS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE WATCHWORD AND GOAL OF TODAY IS COLLECTIVE ECONOMIC SECURITY.

3. HE URGED THAT WE NOT EMULATE LOT'S WIFE BY CONTINUALLY LOOKING BACK. WE (AND HE PRESUMABLY MEANT US AND LATIN AMERICANS) MUST COPE IMAGINITIVELY WITH THE PROBLEMS OF THE NEW ERA -- PRINCIPALLY THE DEISRE TO ACHIEVE COLLECTIVE
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ECONOMIC SECURITY -- SO AS TO APRALLEL ADVANCES IN THE POLITICAL

FIELD. HE SAID COMPREHENSIVE AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN US AND LATIN AMERICA IN ECONOMIC FIELD COULD SERVE AS EXAMPLE TO OTHER REGIONS.

4. YOU WILL BE HOSTING A LUNCH IN HONOR OF BENITES FOR VIRTUALLY THE SAME GROUP NEXTWEEK. I RECOMMEND THAT IN YOUR REMARKS YOU MAKE APPROPRIATE FAVORABLE REFERENCE TO BENITES' STATEMENT THAT IN LA AS WELL AS IN OTHER REGIONS OF THE WORLD WE NEED TO FACE UP TO THE CHALLENGES OF THE FUTURE RATHER THAN DWELL UPON THE MISUNDERSTANDINGS OF THE PAST.
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